

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 02988 301058Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 SY-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5551

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 2988

PRETORIA ALSO FOR RSO

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS WZ

SUBJECT: SECURITY TENSIONS RISING IN SWAZILAND

REF: MBABANE 2752 (NOTAL)

1. TENSIONS HAVE BEEN RISHING SINCE DR. ZWANE'S AUGUST 5 ESCAPE FROM PRISON REPORTED REFTEL. ZWANE IS LOCALLY BELIEVED TO BE IN MOZAMBIQUE. INEXPLICABLE ESCAPE OF 16 MOZAMBICANS FROM SAME INSTITUTION ON AUGUST 16 HAS INCREASED THE UNEASE; EIGHT HAD BEEN DECLARED "PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS" AND EIGHT WERE REFUGEES IN SEMI-DETENTION STATUS. PRIME MINISTER HAS APPOINTED FOUR-MAN COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ALL ASPECTS OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTION INVOLVED, WHICH IS MDUTSHANE JUVENILE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AND NOT THE MATSAPHA PRISON AS REPORTED REFTEL.

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PAGE 02 MBABAN 02988 301058Z

2. SINGLE-PAGE MIMEOGRAPHED FLYERS HAVE APPEARED ON STREETS WITH FOLLOWING TEXT: QUOTE WE LEAD, FOLLOW US.

SWALIMO RPT SWALIMO SAYS TO MAPHEVU AND HIS GANG OF MURDERERS, RAPISTS, AND HOOLIGANS: YOUR TIME HAS COME, THE DAY OF RECKONING IS HERE.

WE HAVE RESCUED OUR LEADER AND WE NOW DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SWAZILAND.

IN THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING OUR OWN COUNTRY, THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLES FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION ARE GROWING MORE POWERFUL AND ARE WINNING ONE VICTORY AFTER ANOTHER. OUR STRUGGLE IS SUPPORTED BY THE WHOLE AFRICAN CONTINENT, BY THE MAJORITY OF MANKIND. WE WANT A PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT IN SWAZILAND.

LET US DEAL SOBHUZA AND HIS STOOGES A DECISIVE BLOW THIS SEPTEMBER 6. LET US HARASS THE ENEMY, HIS POLICE, SOLDIERS, AND SPIES WHEREEVER WE CAN.

WE HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

WE URGE ALL SWAZIS NOT TO ATTEND THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS THIS SEPTEMBER 6 BECAUSE OUR COUNTRY IS NOT YET FREE AND INDEPENDENT. UNQUOTE.

3. KING WAS SCHEDULED TO OPEN THE SWAZILAND INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 26. TWO DAYS BEFORE, FORMAL OPENING WAS POSTPONED TO TUESDAY, AUGUST 29 WITH NO SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION. HOWEVER, ON AUGUST 29, GOS ANNOUNCED THAT OPENING HAD BEEN FURTHER POSTPONED TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 AS "RESULT OF PUBLIC REQUEST FOR A MORE CONVENIENT DAY." (COMMENT: THIS ONE-WEEK FAIR MAY BE UNIQUE IN HAVING ITS FORMAL OPENING AND CLOSING THE SAME DAY. AS FOR DATE CHANGE BASED ON CONVENIENCE TO PUBLIC, THIS WOULD ALSO BE A FIRST IN LOCAL HISTORY.)

4. ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, SOLDIERS (NOT POLICE) BEGAN GUARDING ALL BRIDGES AND RAILROAD OVERPASSES BETWEEN MBABANE AND MANZINI. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MBABAN 02988 301058Z

IN EARLY HOURS OF THEIR ASSIGNMENT, THEY STOPPED ALL TRAFFIC AND SEARCHED VEHICLES THOROUGHLY, INCLUDING GLOVE COMPARTMENTS. LATER IN DAY, AND SINCE THEN, ONLY ONE OR TWO SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN STATIONED NEAR EACH BRIDGE AND NO VEHICLES HAVE BEEN STOPPED. OUR SPECULATION THAT GOS HAD RECEIVED THREATS OF BRIDGE DESTRUCTION WAS CONFIRMED AUGUST 29 BY BRITISH HICOM HEAD OF CHANCERY, WHO SAID GOS HAD INQUIRED ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF BAILEY-BRIDGE EQUIPMENT IF NEEDED.

5. BRITISH HEAD OF CHANCERY ADDED THAT GOS POLICE REPORTED RECENT DISCOVERY OF SIGNIFICANT CACHE OF RUSSIAN-MADE ARMS IN ANC-CONTROLLED HOUSE IN MANZINI. HE SAID THE WEAPONS WERE REMARKABLY SOPHISTICATED, AT LEAST BY LAYMAN'S STANDARDS, WITH SOME OF THEM COLLAPSIBLE.

6. GOS WOULD HAVE HAD ENOUGH SECURITY CONCERNS WITH ANTICIPATED INFLUX OF LARGE NUMBER OF VISITORS FOR TENTH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 6, INCLUDING HIGH-RANKING AFRICAN PERSONALITIES. HOWEVER, PROBLEM IS GREATLY EXACERBATED BY THREATS DESCRIBED ABOVE, WHICH POLICE AND SEMI-DISCIPLINED DEFENCE FORCE WILL BE HARD-PRESSED TO COPE WITH. THIS IS TAKING PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF PREVIOUSLY

EXISTING LOCAL DISCONTENT ARISING FROM GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO
HOLD THE MUCH-TOUTED "ELECTIONS" FOR WHICH GROUNDWORK WAS
OSTENSIBLY FINISHED IN EARLY JULY. (COMMENT: SO MANY GOS ACTIVITIES
ARE CARRIED OUT SECRETIVELY THAT SOME SWAZIS BELIEVE THAT THE
"ELECTIONS" HAVE BEEN HDLD BUT THAT THE RESULTS HAVE NOT BEEN
RELEASED. HOWEVER, CHIEF JUSTICE TOLD ME AUGUST 26 THAT, AS FAR AS
HE KNOWS, "ELECTIONS" HAVE NOT YET BEEN HELD.)
WACHOB

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